

Weekly Report



Key Figures

Mediterranean

302,279

arrivals by sea in 2016*

3,498

dead/missing in 2016*

Trends of Sea Arrivals

Between 19 and 25 September, 597 refugees and migrants crossed the sea to Greece – a slight decrease from the 731 who arrived the previous week. Since April, 14,895 refugees and migrants have arrived to Greece, in comparison to 372,628 in the same period in 2015. As of 25 September 166,347 people have arrived by sea to Greece this year. The main nationalities include 48% from the Syrian Arab Republic, 25% from Afghanistan, and 15% from Iraq and children have comprised 37% of arrivals with men making up 41% and women 21%.

During the same period in Italy, 1,021 persons (including 90 unaccompanied and separated children) arrived to Italy by sea – a decrease from the 5,933 that arrived the previous week. The number of arrivals in 2016 continues to be on par with 2015, with 131,432 arriving as of 25 September in 2016 compared to 132,071 persons disembarked at the end of September 2015. Of those crossing to Italy, Nigerians have comprised 19%, Eritreans 13% and Gambians 7%, with 15% of all arrivals being unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) – mostly from Gambia, Egypt and Eritrea, as compared with 7% in 2015.

Key Developments

Situation in Greece

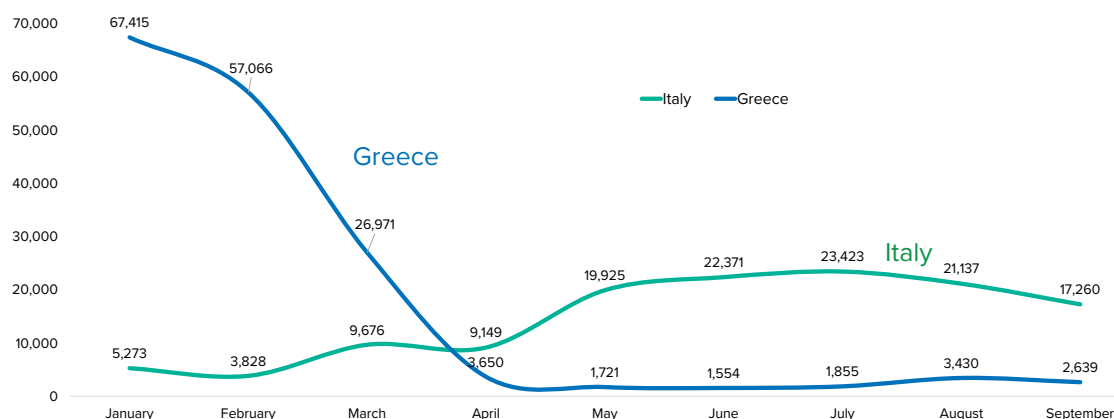
Tensions reached dangerous heights on the Greek island of Lesbos on Monday, September 19 at [Moria Reception and Identification Centre \(RIC\)](#) as fires broke out in and around the centre. Some 4,400 people were accommodated in the facility at the time. Around 95 unaccompanied children were transferred to the Pikpa reception site nearby for security reasons during the incident, but have since returned along with other residents. Based on initial reports, the fire did not cause any casualties, but at least 30 people are reported to have minor injuries

and were taken to hospital. Among material damages, over 50 UNHCR Refugee Housing Units, accommodating some 800 people, were completely destroyed. UNHCR in coordination with other partners and authorities installed 130 tents, provided by IRC, and 14 UNHCR family tents. UNHCR has shared a list with the Registration and Identification Service (RIS) of those whom have lost their documents for the reissuing of replacements.

The slow pace of registration and processing of asylum claims, particularly of some nationalities on the islands, and safety risks incurred by refugees and migrants in Greece contribute to the deteriorating situation within some sites and is of serious concern. This incident confirms the critical security situation in Moria and other reception sites. UNHCR has repeatedly been calling upon the security and law enforcement authorities to increase security to protect refugees, migrants, aid workers and civil servants working in these sites. In addition, poor living conditions, combined with a prevailing feeling of uncertainty, regularly fuel despair and frustration among asylum-seekers in Greece. UNHCR continues to advocate and offer support and assistance to the Government including in areas such as information provision, asylum counseling, identification and referral of persons with specific needs, improving shelter and water/sanitation conditions, provision of non-food items, expanding accommodation places and site management support.

Following consultations among authorities and UNHCR the first transfer of 33 persons whom had been declared admissible to seek asylum in Greece and possess asylum-seeker cards took place from Chios Island to various sites on the mainland. Beginning 22 September, the UNHCR team in Chios in collaboration with the Municipality began relocating people from Dipethe, aiming to eventually close the site. Some 85 cases of individuals with specific needs and families were allocated places in hotels

Average Arrivals to Greece and Italy per Month January to 25 September 2016



* data.unhcr.org/mediterranean as of 29 September 2016

Key Figures

Greece

597

Total Weekly
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

19 September - 25 September

85

Daily Average
Arrivals to
Greek Islands

19 September - 25 September

Italy

1,021

Total Weekly
Arrivals to Italy

19 September - 25 September

146

Daily Average
Arrivals to Italy

19 September - 25 September

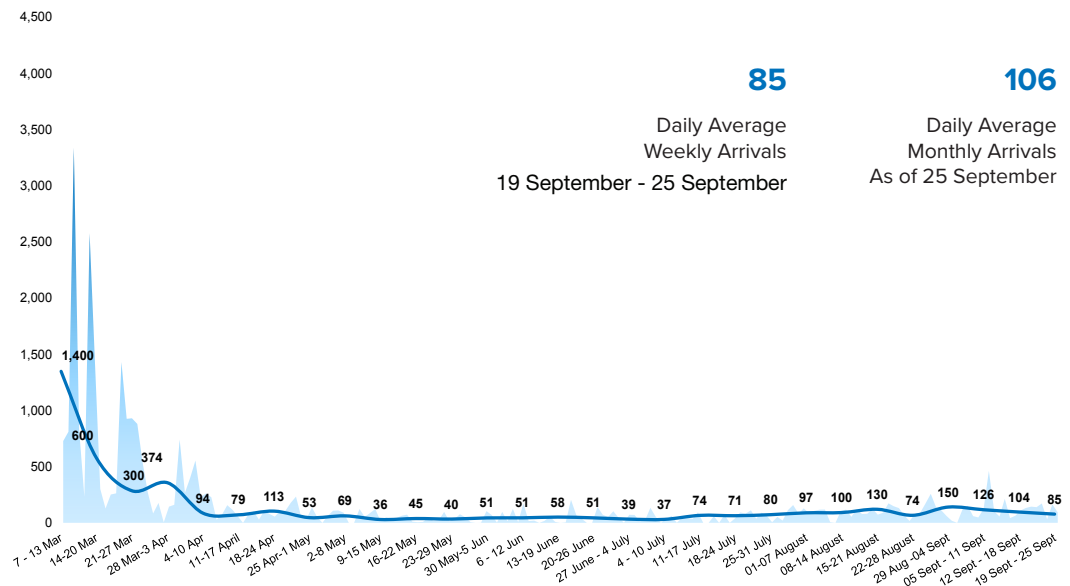
provided by UNHCR. Currently, only single men (approximately 40) remain in Dipethe site and will be transferred to Souda early next week. They are all accommodated inside the municipal building and all informal shelters have been removed.

UNHCR's support to the authorities' efforts to alleviate overcrowding on the islands includes provision of ferry tickets or transportation and establishment of a prioritization system of asylum-seekers to be transferred, as well as efforts to identify alternative accommodation on the islands, such as hotel and apartments for persons

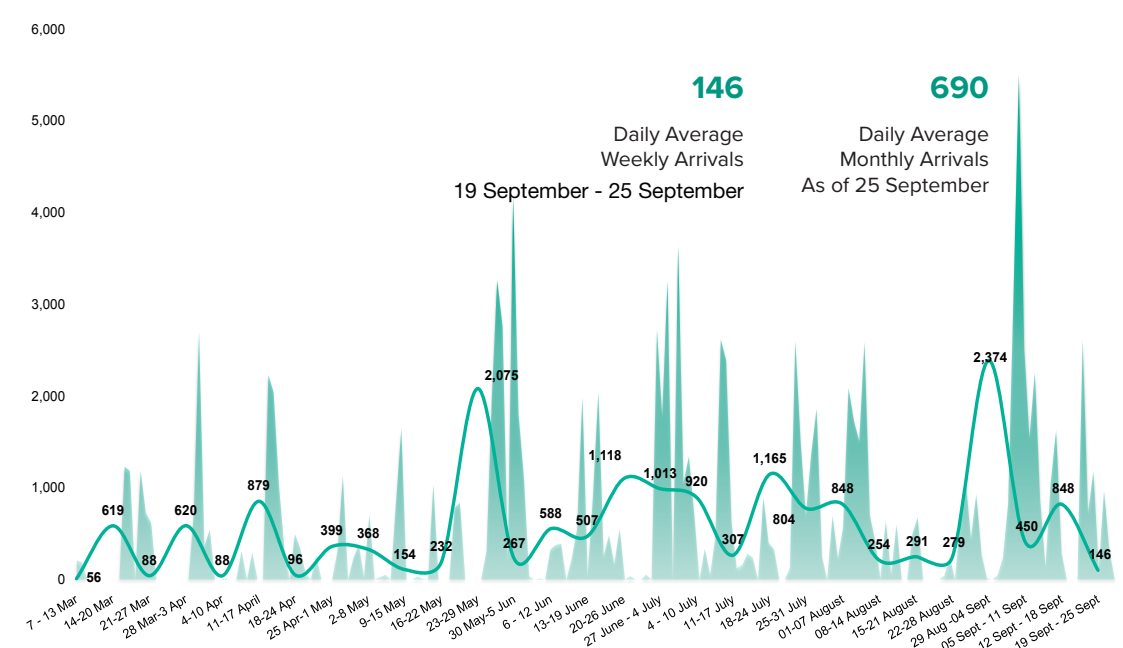
with specific needs. Transfers need to be accelerated to improve the situation on the islands, where according to the authorities there are 13,948 people present on the islands with a capacity of only 7,450.

In Central Greece at Kipselochori site, heavy rains and lower temperatures impacted the already poor conditions concerning shelter and health. Presently army tents which are provided are neither adequate nor sustainable to provide housing during cold weather. With the flooding of tents, children and elderly asylum-seekers are more susceptible to respiratory problems and risk of

Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Greece 07 March to 25 September 2016



Daily and Weekly Average Arrivals to Italy 07 March to 25 September 2016



infections. Heavy rain storms and insect infestations are among causes of distress for residents. UNHCR is working with authorities and partners to provide appropriate assistance. This includes shelter improvements, providing winterized non-food items such as blankets, enhancement of the municipal health facility by mobilizing medical partners such as Médecins du Monde, supplementary food provision (fruits, vegetables and dry food) provided twice a week by mobilizing Danish Refugee Council, informal education community-based activities for children, information sessions on asylum procedures, legal counselling and transportation to Asylum Service Offices for those with appointments for full registration of their asylum claims.

In the North, asylum-seekers are increasingly concerned with the prospect of a long waiting period for full registration interviews while waiting under substandard conditions, and experiencing winter at the sites. In close coordination with the Office of the Alternate Minister of Migration Policy, Mr. Ioannis Mouzalas, and with thanks to funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (ECHO). UNHCR and partners are focusing on responding to the winterization needs including shelter and Non-Food Items, complemented by the continuous efforts to expand the alternative accommodation places scheme in urban settings.

Situation in Italy and Latest Tragedies at Sea

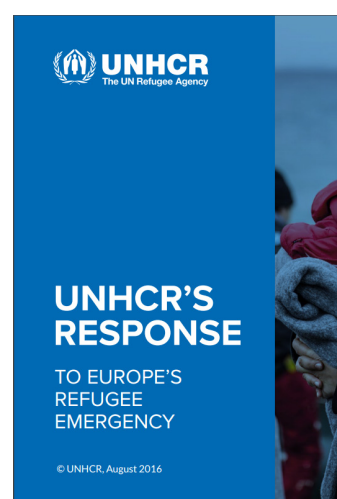
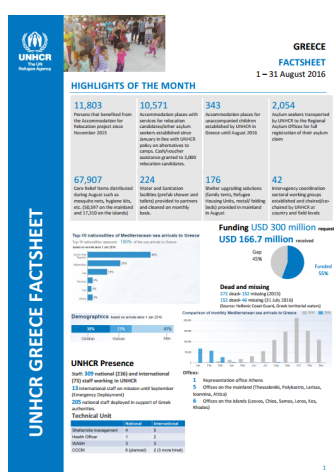
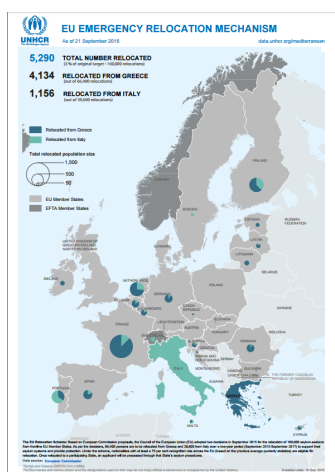
In Como, near the Italy-Switzerland border, a transit centre was opened by the local Prefecture on 19 September, to accommodate persons who had been camping by the Como train station since last July with a view to cross the border. The facility is run by the Red Cross and can host up to 300 persons. By 22 September, the transit centre

was at full capacity. Persons hosted there mainly originate from Eritrea and Ethiopia, and include women and UASC. Caritas is currently providing legal counselling inside the facility. UNHCR visited the transit centre and offered support to local authorities in relation to providing capacity building on asylum and relocation procedures. On 21 September, a boat reportedly carrying up to 450 persons capsized off the coast of Egypt. As of 25 September, 168 bodies were recovered and 163 persons (mostly Egyptians, but also Sudanese, Eritrean, a Syrian and an Ethiopian) were rescued, the rest of the passengers being reportedly dead or missing. The loss of life faced by refugees and migrants on Mediterranean smuggling routes has increased resulting in 3,498 deaths or missing cases at sea in the Mediterranean thus far in 2016, compared to 3,771 for the whole of 2015.

Situation in Serbia and at the Serbia-Hungary Border

A compilation of all available governmental and UNHCR data indicates that an estimated 5,000 people remain in Serbia, of which around 37% are children, 45% are men and 18% are women. Main nationalities represented include 53% from Afghanistan, 14% from Syria and 10% from Pakistan. Of those present in Serbia, around 86% were accommodated in governmental facilities, including 1,560 in the five Asylum Centres and 2,749 in Refugee Aid Points (RAPs) or Reception Centre (RC). The remaining 14% or 686 are in Belgrade city centre or at the two sites near the Hungarian border. The number of asylum-seekers camping in the open near the Hungarian 'transit zones' dropped further from 200 the previous week to some 100 presently. The authorities, UNHCR and partners maintained presence and provided support such as protection assistance and monitoring, legal counselling on asylum, and support for coordination

Key Documents from the Portal



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amongst authorities and humanitarian agencies in all sites throughout the country. During the reporting period, 205 people entered Hungary through the two transit zones, with the continued daily cap of an estimated 15 individuals per transit zone admitted entry.

Update on Relocation

As of 25 September, 4,404 asylum-seekers have been relocated from Greece to other EU Member States ([latest EC data](#)). The Netherlands pledged a total of 100 new places. The current total number of pledges remains low at 9,596 (14.5%) of the 66,400 persons expected to be relocated from Greece to other EU Member States and Switzerland by September 2017. The accommodation capacity in support of the relocation programme in Greece funded by the EU reached a total of 12,101 places, 60% of the 20,000 target of UNHCR and its partners by the end of 2016. More than 300 new asylum-seekers benefitted from the project during the reporting period, which has cumulatively benefitted over 13,700 persons since November 2015.

On 22 September, 40 persons were relocated from Italy to Switzerland, bringing the total number of relocations from Italy to 1,196 (3% of the 39,600 target). As of 21 September, Italy registered 5,009 relocation requests, while the overall number of pledges from adhering states stands at 3,309 (latest Mol data).

UN Summit Commits to Protect Refugee, Migrant Rights

At a high-level [UN Summit in New York](#) on 19 September, the governments of 193 countries adopted key commitments to enhance protection for millions of people who have been forcibly displaced and are otherwise on the move around the world.

Amidst record levels of displacement worldwide, the Summit brought together government and UN leaders and representatives of civil society to better safeguard the rights of refugees and migrants and share responsibility on a global scale. The result of the Summit was an adoption of the New York Declaration outlining key commitments. The Declaration includes a call on countries which can resettle or reunite many more refugees to do so. It also calls for those in the richer part of the world

to recognize their responsibility to provide timely and dependable humanitarian funding, while robustly investing in communities that host large numbers of refugees. UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said in remarks to the Summit that the Declaration “marks a political commitment of unprecedented force and resonance.” He further stated that the Declaration will fill gaps in the international refugee protection system and pledged to work with world leaders to manage and resolve forced displacement in a principled manner.

Update on Readmissions from Greece to Turkey

Readmissions continue to happen under the Greece-Turkey bilateral agreement, seven Syrians were returned on 23 September 2016 from Lesbos to Adana by plane. To date, a total of 51 Syrians have been readmitted after withdrawing their initial asylum applications or not applying for asylum and requesting to be returned to Turkey.

The total number of readmissions to Turkey from Greece is 509 as of 25 September. Approximately half of these are from Pakistan.

EU and related Developments

On 24 September, Heads of State and Governments of Albania, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Croatia, FYROM, Serbia, Slovenia, Hungary, the Interior Minister of Romania, were invited by the Austrian Chancellery at a Summit on “Migration along the Balkan route”. President of the European Council Donald Tusk and EU Commissioner for Migration and Home Affairs Dimitris Avramopoulos also attended the Summit. Before the event, President Tusk underlined the need to “confirm, politically and in practice, that the Western Balkan route of irregular migration is closed for good”. Commissioner Avramopoulos [underlined](#) in a press statement that the EC’s priorities were to continue implementing the EU-Turkey Statement, while better managing the EU’s external borders. He also reaffirmed the EC’s financial and operational commitments to EU and Western Balkan countries under pressure, including by facilitating returns to countries of origin and further engaging in relocation, and emphasized the need for cooperation with non-EU countries through tailor-made a partnership framework.



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Timeline Overview

Highlights

